

201-15371

June 21, 2004

Michael O. Leavitt, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Bldg. (1101A)  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460



**Comments on the HPV test plan for the fatty-nitrogen-derived ether nitriles category**

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

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The following comments on the American Chemistry Council's test plan for fatty-nitrogen-derived (FND) ether nitriles are submitted on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, the Humane Society of the United States, the Doris Day Animal League, and Earth Island Institute. These animal, health, and environmental protection organizations have a combined membership of more than ten million Americans.

We commend the ACC's decision to read data across from the FND nitriles category to the FND ether nitriles category, and thus obviate the perceived need for further testing of compounds in the latter category. This decision is in keeping with the October 14, 1999 guidance from the EPA to chemical manufacturers and importers, which states that "participants shall maximize the use of scientifically appropriate categories of related chemicals and structure activity relationships" (<http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk/ceoltr2.htm>). However, please also see our comments and concerns on the ACC's proposed test plan for the FND nitriles category.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sandler  
Federal Agency Liaison

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